

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEBRASKA

Ahmed Mohamed Said v. Rob Jeffreys

No. 8:25CV260 · No. 8:25CV260 · Decided January 8, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the District of Nebraska preliminarily reviewed Ahmed Mohamed Said’s amended petition for a writ of habeas corpus under 28 U.S.C. § 2254. Although the court found his claims potentially cognizable, it noted that the petition appeared untimely and established procedures for Respondents to file state-court records, an answer, or a motion for summary judgment.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the District of Nebraska
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Joseph F. Bataillon
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the District of Nebraska
DECIDED	January 8, 2026
DOCKET	8:25CV260
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Preliminary review under Rule 4 of the Rules Governing Section 2254 Cases in the United States District Courts of a state prisoner’s amended petition for a writ of habeas corpus under 28 U.S.C. § 2254.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	Under Rule 4 of the Rules Governing Section 2254 Cases, the court conducts preliminary review to determine whether the petition, liberally construed, states claims potentially cognizable in federal court.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Unknown; memorandum and order conducting preliminary review in a district-court habeas proceeding.
PARTIES	Ahmed Mohamed Said v. Rob Jeffreys, Director of Nebraska Department of Correctional Services

TOPICS

- [federal habeas corpus](#)
- [statute of limitations](#)
- [post-conviction relief](#)
- [ineffective assistance](#)
- [summary judgment](#)

PRACTICE AREAS

Federal habeas corpus

Post-conviction relief

Criminal procedure

Civil procedure

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether Said's habeas claims, liberally construed, were potentially cognizable under 28 U.S.C. § 2254.
2. Whether the face of the petition and available state-court records indicated that the petition might be barred by the one-year statute of limitations in 28 U.S.C. § 2244(d).
3. Whether Said's motion for speedy relief from unlawful custody should be construed as a motion for status.

HOLDINGS

1. Said's eight claims, as liberally construed, were potentially cognizable in federal court and therefore survived preliminary review under Rule 4.
2. The court did not finally decide timeliness, but preliminarily determined that the petition appeared potentially barred by 28 U.S.C. § 2244(d) because it was filed more than one year after the judgment became final.
3. The court construed Said's motion for speedy relief as a motion for status, granted it to the extent it sought information about the petition's status, and denied it otherwise.

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Said was charged in Nebraska in November 2017 with second-degree murder and use of a deadly weapon to commit a felony, and a jury convicted him of all charges. His conviction was affirmed by the Nebraska Supreme Court in 2020. After pursuing state post-conviction relief, Said filed a federal habeas petition alleging ineffective assistance of counsel, involuntary or coerced statements, unlawful search-warrant evidence, improper admission of evidence, and an insufficient evidentiary basis for conviction.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Said was convicted in Nebraska state court of second-degree murder and use of a deadly weapon to commit a felony. The Nebraska Supreme Court affirmed the conviction on July 2, 2020. He pursued state post-conviction relief, which was denied by the state district court, affirmed by the Nebraska Court of Appeals, and summarily denied on further review by the Nebraska Supreme Court. Said filed this federal habeas petition on April 8, 2025. The district court found the claims potentially cognizable but noted that the petition appeared potentially barred by the one-year statute of limitations, and ordered the case to proceed so the parties could develop the record.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- State v. Said, 945 N.W.2d 152 (Neb. 2020)
- State v. Said, No. A-21-745, 2022 WL 6585496 (Neb. Ct. App. Oct. 11, 2022)
- Stutzka v. McCarville, 420 F.3d 757 (8th Cir. 2005)

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